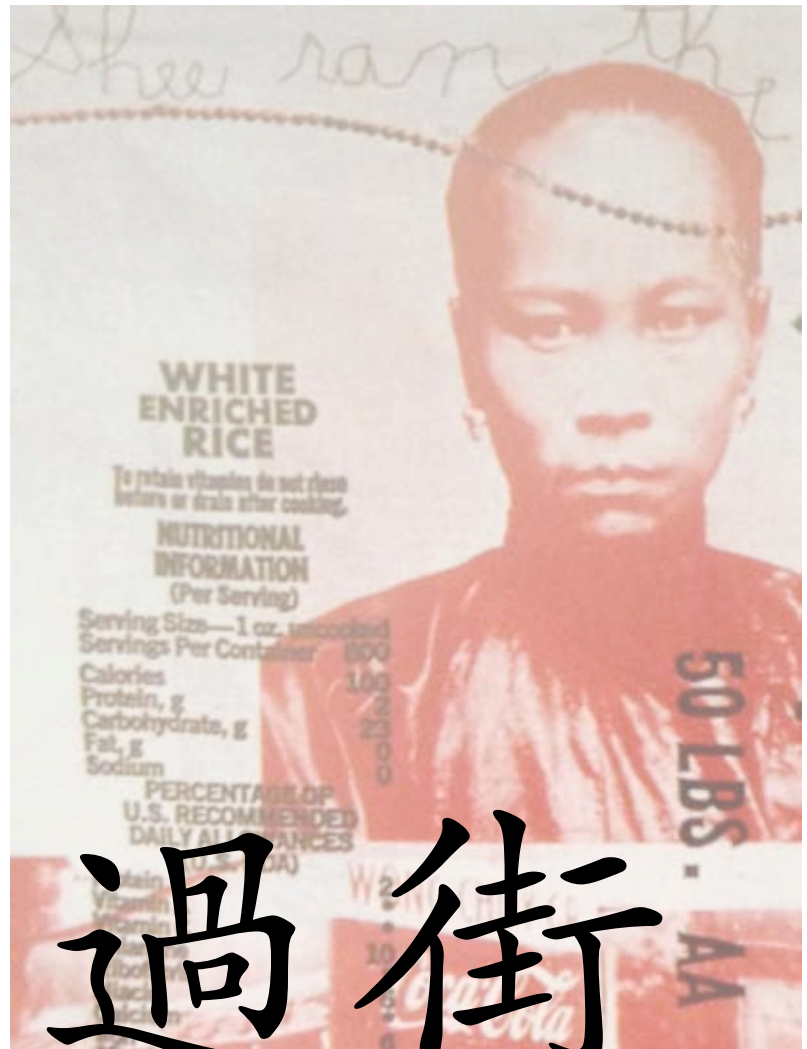


TIMELINE

- 1830 The first U.S. Census notation of Chinese in America records three Chinese living in the United States.
- 1848 The Gold Rush begins in California with the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill.
- 1863 President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery.
- 1865 Central Pacific recruits Chinese workers to build a transcontinental railroad.
- 1868 The 14th Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship to people once enslaved.
- 1869 The Golden Spike is driven by Leland Stanford to join the rails of the First Transcontinental Railroad across the United States connecting the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory.
- 1870 Congress approves the Naturalization Act, barring Chinese obtaining U.S. citizenship. The Act also prevents immigration of Chinese women who have marital partners in the United States.
- 1882 The Chinese Exclusion Act is passed by Congress and signed by President Chester A. Arthur.
- 1883 In 1883, Wong Chin Foo launches "The Chinese American," the first Chinese-language newspaper east of the Rockies - marking the first recorded use of the term. Wong writes scores of articles demystifying Chinese life that appear in newspapers across the country.
- 1889 Completion of the Pacific Railroad.
- 1892 30-year-old Homer Plessy is jailed for sitting in the "White" car of the East Louisiana Railroad. The Geary Act extends the Chinese Exclusion Act for another 10 years and requires all Chinese residents to carry permits.
- 1906 Earthquake destroys all records in San Francisco, including immigration records.
- 1919 Baby Jack's father Wong Yet Chaw immigrates to the US in 1919 from his family village, You Tin Cheurn in China.
- 1924 The Asian Exclusion Act, which is part of the Immigration Act of 1924, excludes all Asian laborer immigrants from entering into the United States.
- 1929 The Cades move to Augusta from Elberton, Georgia
Martin Luther King is born in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1930 Wong Yet Chaw's wife Sue Shee Wong, brother Robert and eldest son Theodore (Kow Gaw) are detained on Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay upon their arrival in the US. They go to Augusta, Georgia after their detention.
Paul Robeson is the first black actor to attempt the role of Othello in a century, starring opposite Peggy Aschcroft's Desdemona, at the Savoy Theatre in London.
Mei Lanfang introduces Peking Opera to the United States
His North American tour brings him to San Francisco.
- 1931 "Minnie the Moocher" is recorded by Cab Calloway and His Orchestra.
- 1933 The Gee Wongs, Flo's family, arrive in Oakland, California to join Flo's father, Gee Seow Hong, who was already residing in Oakland Chinatown.
- 1934 Edward K. Wong, aka Baby Jack is born in Augusta, Georgia.
- 1935 Renowned American singer/actor Paul Robeson and Peking opera star Mei Lanfang meet at the School of Oriental-African Languages in London.
- 1936 Baby Jack's father, Wong Yet Chaw, leaves for San Francisco.
- 1938 Mike Lowe brings Baby Jack to his first baseball game at Jennings Baseball Stadium
Flo Oy Wong is born in Oakland, California.
- 1940 "Sweet Lorraine" is recorded by Nat King Cole.
- 1941 Wong Yet Chaw dies in San Francisco.
Paul Robeson first sings and records 'Chee Lai' or 'March of the Volunteers; the song becomes the Chinese national anthem in 1949.
- 1943 Congress repeals all Chinese exclusion laws with The Magnuson Act of 1943, grants Chinese the right to become naturalized citizens, and allows 105 Chinese to immigrate to the US each year.
- 1944 Nina Williams bakes pies for the Wongs in exchange for her groceries on Christmas Eve.

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER CULTURAL CENTER

presents:



GWAH GAI: CROSSING THE STREET

A Musical Collage in Four Movements

A Collaboration between
Marcus Shelby, Musician,
& Flo Oy Wong, Visual Artist
Dramaturg - Andi Wong

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2013, 8 PM
SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2013, 8 PM
ODC THEATER



過街

GWAH GAI:

CROSSING THE STREET

A Musical Collage in Four Movements

I. INTERLOCUTION (1830-1918)

- A) Awake
- B) Crossings
- C) Transitions

II. GEORGIA (1918-1941)

- A) Wong Choy
 - B) Butterfly Lovers/Wade In the Water
 - C) Crossings
 - D) Men of the Bench
 - E) The Cades/Go Down Moses
 - F) Moonshine Day/Amazing Grace
 - G) Did Y'a Hear?
 - H) Nina William's Christmas Pies/In My Solitude
- Transitions

III. OAKLAND (1943-1961)

- A) Great China
- B) 7th & Franklin
- C) Transitions

IV. SAN FRANCISCO (2010-Present)

- A) Collage
- B) I Have A Story
- C) Butterfly Lovers

過街

GWAH GAI:

CROSSING THE STREET

A Musical Collage in Four Movements

Music by

MARCUS SHELBY

Libretto by

ANDI WONG

Based on stories written by

FLO OY WONG

Inspired by the oral storytelling of

EDWARD K. WONG

featuring

PETER MACON: Narrator

MARCUS SHELBY ORCHESTRA

Tony Peebles: *alto sax*

Tom Griesser: *alto sax*

Patrick Wolff: *tenor sax/clarinet*

Teodross Avery: *tenor sax/soprano sax*

Fil Lorenz: *baritone sax*

Chip Tingle: *trombone*

Rob Ewing: *trombone*

Ryan Black: *trombone*

Scott Englebright: *trumpet*

Joel Behrman: *trumpet*

Rafa Postel: *trumpet*

Mark Wright: *trumpet*

Tiffany Austin: *vocals*

Joe Warner: *piano*

Howard Wiley: *drums*

Marcus Shelby: *bass/conductor*

with

Jason Hou as *Baby Jack*

Catherine Hou as *Young Flo*

GWAH GAI PRODUCTION TEAM

Andi Wong: *Artistic Director*

Theresa Because

Victor Yan

Pat Lem

Mary Ann Cruz

Chris Wong, Megan Wong & Patrick Wu

APICC Staff:

Executive Director: Vinay Patel

Project Coordinator: Thao Nguyen

Public Relations: Karen Larsen and Larsen Associates

Special Thanks:

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APICC Board, Jon Jang

Asian Improv aRts, Francis Wong, Nancy Hom,
Christy Bolingbroke, Bob Hsiang, Frances Phillips

Imprint Copy and Print



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



MARCUS SHELBY is an accomplished teacher, composer, arranger, and bassist who currently lives in San Francisco, California. Over the past 20 years, he has built a diverse biography. From 1990-1996, Shelby was bandleader of Columbia Records and GRP Impulse! Recording Artists Black/Note and is currently the Artistic Director and leader of The Marcus Shelby Orchestra, The Marcus Shelby Hot 7, and the The Marcus Shelby Trio. Shelby was awarded a 2009 Black Metropolis Research Consortium Fellowship in Chicago for summer 2009 to conduct research for his commission to compose *"Soul of the Movement"*. Shelby was also a 2006 Fellow in the Resident Dialogues Program of the Committee for Black Performing Arts at Stanford University to conduct research for his commission to compose *"Harriet Tubman."* Shelby also has had the honor of arranging for and conducting the Count Basie Orchestra featuring Ledisi, performing with Tom Waits, and receiving the City Flight Magazine 2005 award as one of the "Top Ten Most Influential African Americans in the Bay Area". As the 1991 winner of the Charles Mingus Scholarship, Shelby's studies include work under the tutelage of composer James Newton and legendary bassist Charlie Haden. Shelby is also very active in music education and currently teaches at Rooftop Alternative School in San Francisco, the Stanford Jazz Workshop at Stanford University, and also the Oakland Public Conservatory. <http://www.marcusshelby.com/>



FLO OY WONG is a visual storyteller who began her career at the age of forty. Born and raised in Oakland California's Chinatown, she has received recognition for her narrative work, including three National Endowment for the Arts awards, a 1995 National Women's Caucus for the Art Award, a 2007 City of Sunnyvale Art Award, a 2008 Norman Y. Mineta Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club and an award from Kearny Street Workshop in honor of her landmark exhibition entitled *made in usa: Angel Island Shhh*. In March of 2012, she was recognized by two organizations, Art in Action, a Menlo Park, California-based non-profit organization and the Joyce Gordon Gallery of Oakland, California. For her role in co-founding the Asian American Women Artists Association Flo received a Joyce Award. Flo has exhibited widely on a regional, national, and international basis. In California, she has shown at the de Young Memorial Museum, the Angel Island Immigration Station, the South of Market Cultural Center (San Francisco), the Luggage Store Gallery (San Francisco), the Chinese Historical Society of America (San Francisco), the Oakland Museum, the Euphrat Museum of Art, the 40 Acres Art Gallery (Sacramento), the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, and the Japanese American National Museum (Los Angeles). On a national level, Flo has exhibited in New York at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, the Ethan Cohen Gallery, and the Flomenhaft Gallery. Internationally, Flo has exhibited at the United States Embassies in Lusaka, Zambia, and Copenhagen, Denmark and in group exhibitions in Beijing, Hong Kong and Nagoya, Japan. She is represented by the Flomenhaft Gallery in New York. <http://www.flo-oy-wongartist.com/>

ANDI WONG is a teaching artist, currently working with K-8 students and teachers at Rooftop Alternative K-8 School in San Francisco. As a member of the Rooftop Art Committee and as the school's 3rd-4th grade technology instructor. She is currently working to integrate art, technology, science and environmental advocacy with The Blue Marble Project, and presented at the inaugural BLUEMiND conference at the California Academy of Sciences, established to explore the connection between the ocean and neuroscience. Ms. Wong develops curriculum with Bay Area arts education organizations such as the de Young Museum, StageWrite, San Francisco Opera, and the Marcus Shelby Orchestra and has led arts education workshops for the Alameda Arts Alliance, Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, ArtsBridge at UCB, Lincoln Center Institute National Educator Workshop and San Francisco Unified School District. Ms. Wong currently serves on the advisory committees for StageWrite, Susty Kids, Inc. and SFUSD's Arts Education Master Plan. She is deeply grateful and honored to partner with Marcus Shelby and Flo Oy Wong to develop *Gwah Gai: Crossing The Street* for APICC. <http://www.artsed4all.org/>



PETER MACON has portrayed a host of characters for the Ashland Shakespeare Festival company, including Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*; William Henry Brown in *The African Company Presents Richard III*; Fortune, Soldier and Miner in *Ruined*; Prince of Morocco in *The Merchant of Venice*; Second General and Second Quartet in *Throne of Blood*; Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado about Nothing*, Othello in *Othello*. His Broadway roles include Yak in *Drowning Crow* (Manhattan Theatre Club); multiple roles in *Twilight*, *Los Angeles* (Lincoln Center Theater). Regional: Oedipus in *Oedipus* (Guthrie Theater), Malcolm in *Medea/Macbeth/Cinderella* (Yale Repertory Theatre), Aaron in *Titus Andronicus* (The Shakespeare Theatre), Phillip the Bastard in *King John* (Shakespeare & Company), Bill Cracker in *Happy End* (American Conservatory Theater), Witch and Donalbain in *Macbeth* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre). On Film/TV, Macon has been seen and heard in *Ashes, Friendship, Dexter, Law & Order, Without a Trace, Supernatural, The Shield, Chappelle's Show, Animated Tales of the World* (HBO). He is an Emmy Award winner for Outstanding Voiceover Narration and a recipient of the Herschel Williams award, Outstanding Achievement in Acting from Yale School of Drama.



TIFFANY AUSTIN is a Los Angeles native whose soul, subtlety and versatility has brought her work to Europe and Asia. She has performed onstage and onscreen, and with artists such as Roy Ayers, Marcus Shelby, and Tomoyasu Hotei. Since completing her law degree, she continues to compose, and perform live at events held by SFJAZZ, the Healdsburg Jazz Festival, the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, and KQED television. Austin is a featured vocalist with the Healdsburg Festival Freedom Jazz Choir, led by Marcus Shelby. She can also be seen as a soloist for the upcoming premiere of Darren Johnston's *Letters to Home* with Trans-Global People's Chorus, at the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. Tiffany is available for recordings, live performances, and lyric writing commissions. <http://www.tiffanyaustinmusic.com/>

有缘千里能相會 Fate brings people together,
no matter how far apart they may be.



EDWARD K. WONG, 79, aka **BABY JACK**, was born and raised in Augusta, GA. A retired electrical engineer, he is married to Flo Oy Wong and the father of Felicia Joy Wong and Bradley Jon Wong. He is the grandfather of Benjamin Wong Halperin, Sasha Wong Halperin, and Peter Edward Wong. Throughout their married life of almost 53 years Ed has shared his stories of growing up in Augusta, GA during segregation with his wife, Flo.

In 2011, Ed and Flo Oy Wong attended the Marcus Shelby/Jon Jang “*Meditations on Integration*” concert presented by APICC. At the concert, Flo Oy Wong was deeply moved by Marcus Shelby’s compassion and understanding (through words and music) of the Chinese American Angel Island immigration experience from 1910 to 1940. She asked Marcus to compose original music to accompany her *Baby Jack Rice Story* installation, which visually chronicles a Chinese American’s experience of growing up neither Black nor White in the segregated South. *Gwah Gai: Crossing the Street*, a collaborative performance presented by the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC), is based on Wong’s creative non-fiction re-imagining of her husband’s younger years. Marcus Shelby weaves Ed’s stories of Georgia into a musical expression that captures the spirit of the African Americans of the Wrightsboro Road neighborhood who were so consequential to Baby Jack throughout his entire life. Flo’s Oakland Chinatown experience is threaded through the performance narrative written by dramaturg Andi Wong. *Gwah Gai: Crossing the Street* explores the vexing social issues of now and long ago.



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER CULTURAL CENTER

is one of 6 city-sponsored Cultural Centers supported by the San Francisco Arts Commission.

APICC’s mission is to support and produce multi-disciplinary art reflective of the unique experiences of Asian Pacific Islanders living in the United States.

This project is supported by:

Creative Work Fund,
San Francisco Arts Commission Community Arts and Education Program,
San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Grants Program,
California Arts Council

CREATIVEWORKFUND



For more information on the development of *Gwah Gai: Crossing the Street*, please visit the website documenting the project. <http://www.artsted4all.org/CrossingTheStreet/>

- 1946 “Ain’t Nobody Here But Us Chickens” is recorded by Louis Jordan and His Tympany Five.
- 1947 Jackie Robinson signs on with the Brooklyn Dodgers.
- 1949 Baby Jack and the Wong family leave Augusta and move West to Oakland.
- 1952 The Walter-McCarran Immigration and Naturalization Act revokes the Asian Exclusion Act of 1924.
- 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ends segregation in public schools.
- 1955 Paul Robeson delivers his address, “Greetings to Bandung” at the Asian-African Conference.
- 1961 Flo & Ed marry.
Paul Robeson attempts suicide in Moscow. His son, Paul Robeson, Jr., suspects CIA involvement in the incident.
Mei Lan-fang dies in Beijing.
- 1963 Dr. Martin Luther King delivers the “I Have a Dream” speech during the March on Washington.
- 1964 Charles Mingus records, *Meditations on Integration* live in Copenhagen.
- 1966 Marcus Shelby is born in Anchorage, Alaska.
- 1968 San Francisco State College and the University of California at Berkeley students successfully strike for more minority studies programs, the first Ethnic Studies programs are established.
- 1982 Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American is beaten to death in Detroit.
- 1993 Flo & Ed return to Augusta to find and interview the Cade family for her art installation, *Baby Jack Rice Story*. The building that once was the site of the Wong Choy Grocery was torn down some years later.
- 2000 Jon Jang & James Newton premiere *When Sorrow Turns to Joy — Songlines: The Spiritual Tributary of Paul Robeson and Mei Lanfang* with Pan Yonling, Tootie Heath and Marcus Shelby
- 2007 Marcus Shelby begins teaching at Rooftop Alternative K-8 School.
- 2008 Barack Obama is the first African American to be elected President of the United States.
Congress issues a formal apology to African Americans for slavery and Jim Crow laws.
- 2009 Tensions rise between the African-American and Asian-American communities in San Francisco after video of a fight between two women is posted on YouTube, going viral.
- 2010 San Franciscan Tian Sheng Yu, 59, is murdered on Telegraph Avenue in Oakland after coming to the defense of his 27-year old son who is attacked by two 18-year olds. In the Bayview District, a violent assault by youths near the Third Street Muni station results in the death of 83-year old Huan Chen; Mrs. Chen, a 57-year-old Chinese woman is thrown off a Muni platform by a group of boys between the ages of 14 and 16; a 29-year-old Chinese-American man is beaten by five boys on a Muni train.
- 2011 Flo & Ed attend APICC’s concert “*Meditations on Integration*” with Jon Jang & Marcus Shelby at the African American Arts & Culture Center as tensions build between the Chinese-American and African-American communities after a violent assault by youths near the Muni station at Third Street and Oakdale Avenue in Oakland results in the death of 83-year old Huan Chen.
- 2012 Congress makes a formal apology for the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.
Flo begins her teaching residency at Rooftop Alternative K-8 School. She introduces students to *The Baby Jack Rice Story* and the story of the Marcel Network, Moussa and Odette Abadi’s rescue of 527 children during the Holocaust. The school community is invited to contribute artistic “ingredients” to Flo’s newest work-in-progress. The collaborative 527: Moussa/Odette Pie will be on display at the Luggage Store Gallery for Flo’s 75th Birthday exhibit in November of 2013.
- 2013 President Obama & President Xi meet on June 7-8 at the Sunnylands Summit in California.